

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 Claim 1 (currently amended): A communications method, comprising the steps of:
2 detecting a first telephone call to a first telephone number;
3 answering the first telephone call;
4 determining if the answered first telephone call is a fax or voice
5 telephone call;
6 ~~if the first telephone call is determined to be a voice telephone call,~~
7 ~~forwarding the first telephone call using a second telephone number;~~ and
8 if the first telephone call is determined to be a fax telephone call,
9 performing, in parallel, i) a fax delivery by E-mail operation and ii) a fax delivery by
10 telephone operation thereby resulting in delivery of a facsimile received from said
11 first telephone call by both an E-mail message and by a telephone call thereby
12 providing delivery of the facsimile to multiple devices
13 ~~forwarding the first telephone call using a third telephone number, the third telephone~~
14 ~~number being different from said second telephone number.~~

1 Claim 2 (currently amended): The method of claim 1, further comprising wherein
2 performing a fax delivery by E-mail operation includes the step steps of:
3 receiving a facsimile message transmitted via the first telephone call;
4 storing the received facsimile message as an electronic file; and
5 E-mailing the electronic file to a call forwarding service subscriber.

1 Claim 3 (currently amended): ~~A communications method, comprising the steps of:~~
2 ~~detecting a first telephone call to a first telephone number; The method~~
3 of claim 1,
4 wherein determining if the first telephone call is a fax or voice
5 telephone call ~~by: includes: answering the first telephone call; and monitoring the~~
6 answered call for a tone indicative of a fax communication;

7 wherein if the first telephone call is determined to be a voice telephone
8 call, the method further comprises forwarding the first telephone call using a second
9 telephone number; and

10 ~~if the first telephone call is determined to be a fax telephone call,~~
11 ~~forwarding the first telephone call~~ wherein performing a fax delivery by phone
12 operation includes using a third telephone number, the third telephone number being
13 different from said second telephone number.

1 Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 3, further comprising:

2 retrieving from stored call forwarding service subscriber information
3 at least one of a stored voice call forwarding telephone number and a stored fax
4 forwarding telephone number, the stored voice call forwarding telephone number
5 being used as said second telephone number, the stored fax forwarding telephone
6 number being used as said third telephone number.

1 Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 4, wherein said step of forwarding the first
2 telephone call using a second telephone number includes:

3 placing a telephone call to said second telephone number; and
4 bridging the first telephone call and the telephone call to the second
5 telephone number.

1 Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 5,

2 wherein detecting a first telephone call includes setting a terminating
3 attempt trigger at a telephone switch on a telephone line corresponding to the first
4 telephone number; and

5 wherein placing a telephone call to said second telephone number and
6 bridging the first telephone call and the telephone call to the second telephone
7 number are performed by a peripheral device coupled to said telephone switch.

1 Claim 7 (original): The communications method of claim 4, further comprising:
2 retrieving from stored call forwarding service subscriber information
3 at least one of a stored voice call forwarding telephone number and a stored fax
4 forwarding telephone number, the stored voice call forwarding telephone number
5 being used as said second telephone number when retrieved, the stored fax
6 forwarding telephone number being used as said third telephone number when
7 retrieved; and
8 retrieving from said stored call forwarding service subscriber
9 information an E-mail address to be used when forwarding a fax by E-mail.

1 Claim 8 (currently amended): A communications method for use in a telephone
2 network including a telephone switch, service control point, and telephone switch
3 peripheral device, comprising the steps of:
4 setting a terminating attempt trigger at a telephone switch on a
5 telephone line corresponding to a first telephone number;
6 in response to activation of said terminating attempt trigger by a first
7 telephone call, operating the telephone switch to contact a service control point for
8 call processing instructions;
9 operating said service control point to instruct the telephone switch to
10 connect the first telephone call to the telephone switch peripheral device;
11 operating the telephone switch peripheral device to answer the first
12 telephone call and to then determine if the first telephone call is a fax or voice
13 telephone call;
14 if the first telephone call is determined to be a voice telephone call,
15 i. —— operating the telephone switch peripheral device to
16 retrieve a voice telephone call forwarding telephone number
17 from a set of stored subscriber information including a voice
18 telephone call forwarding telephone number and a fax
19 telephone call forwarding telephone number; and

20 ii. ~~forwarding the first telephone call using the retrieved~~
21 ~~voice telephone call forwarding telephone number; and~~
22 if the first telephone call is determined to be a fax telephone call,
23 generating a file including a fax communicated by said
24 first telephone call;
25 delivering said file including a fax via E-mail;
26 i. operating the telephone switch peripheral device to
27 retrieve ~~the a~~ fax telephone call forwarding telephone number
28 from ~~the a~~ set of stored subscriber information; and
29 ii. forwarding the first telephone call using the retrieved
30 fax telephone call forwarding telephone number to thereby
31 deliver said fax to a subscriber device via a call in addition to
32 delivery via E-mail .

1 Claim 9 (currently amended): The method of claim 8, wherein if the first telephone
2 call is determined to be a voice telephone call, the method further comprises:
3 i. operating the telephone switch peripheral device to retrieve a voice
4 telephone call forwarding telephone number from the set of stored subscriber
5 information; and
6 ii. forwarding the first telephone call using the retrieved voice telephone
7 call forwarding telephone number, forwarding the first telephone call using the
8 retrieved voice telephone call forwarding telephone number includes operating the
9 telephone switch peripheral device to:
10 place a call to said call forwarding telephone number;
11 and
12 bridge the first telephone call and the cal to said call
13 forwarding telephone number.

1 Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 9, wherein forwarding the first telephone
2 call using the retrieved fax telephone call forwarding telephone number includes
3 operating the telephone switch peripheral device to:

4 place a call to said fax telephone call forwarding telephone number;
5 and

6 bridge the first telephone call and the call to said fax telephone call
7 forwarding telephone number.

1 Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 8, further comprising, prior to operating
2 the telephone switch peripheral device to determine if the first telephone call is a fax
3 or voice telephone call:

4 storing said set of subscriber information including a voice telephone
5 call forwarding telephone number and a fax telephone call forwarding telephone
6 number in said telephone switch peripheral device.

1 Claim 12 (currently amended): The method of claim 11, further comprising, storing
2 in said set of subscriber information an E-mail address to be used for forwarding a fax
3 by E-mail, ~~the method further comprising:~~

4 ~~operating the telephone switch peripheral device to receive a fax~~
5 ~~message transmitted by said first telephone call; and~~

6 ~~forwarding the fax message in an E-mail addressed using the E-mail~~
7 ~~address stored in said set of subscriber information.~~

1 Claim 13 (currently amended): The method of claim 12, further comprising: ~~wherein~~
2 ~~the step of~~

3 ~~operating the telephone switch peripheral device to receive the fax message~~
4 ~~includes the step of:~~

5 monitoring the forwarded call, between the first telephone call and the
6 call to said fax telephone call forwarding telephone number, for fax data
7 corresponding to the fax message.

1 Claims 14-18 (canceled)

1 Claim 19 (currently amended): A communications method, the method comprising
2 the steps of:

3 operating a telephone switch to detect a call to a telephone number;
4 connecting the telephone call to a peripheral device coupled to the
5 telephone switch;
6 operating said peripheral device to:
7 i. answer said call;
8 ii. determine if the answered call is a fax telephone call or a
9 non-fax call;
10 iii. if it is determined that the answered telephone call is a fax
11 telephone call, connect the call by a telephone line to a
12 facsimile device corresponding to a call forwarding service
13 subscriber while monitoring the telephone call to receive a
14 facsimile message delivered to the facsimile device via the
15 answered call; and
16 iv. send an E-mail message including said received facsimile
17 message to thereby deliver said facsimile by an E-mail device
18 corresponding to said subscriber in addition to delivery to said
19 facsimile device corresponding to said subscriber a call
20 forwarding service subscriber; and
21 v. if it is determined that the answered call is a non-fax call,
22 forward the call to another telephone number.

1 Claim 20 (currently amended): The communications method of claim 19, further
2 comprising the step of:

3 using the called telephone number to access a call forwarding service
4 subscriber record; and

5 retrieving ~~form~~ from the call forwarding service subscriber record an
6 E-mail address to be used for forwarding a fax message.

1 Claim 21 (currently amended): The communications method of claim 20, wherein
2 the step of operating a telephone switch to detect a call to a telephone number
3 includes:

4 setting a terminating attempt trigger on a telephone line corresponding
5 to said telephone number; and

6 wherein the method further comprises:

7 if it is determined that the answered call is a non-fax call, forwarding the
8 call to another telephone number.

1 Claim 22 (original): The communications method of claim 21, further comprising the
2 step of:

3 contacting a service control point for call processing instructions in
4 response to activation of said terminating attempt trigger; and

5 wherein connecting the telephone call to a peripheral device includes:

6 operating the telephone switch to couple the detected call to the
7 peripheral device in response to an instruction received from the
8 service control point.

1 Claim 23 (original): The communications method of claim 22,

2 wherein the instruction received ~~form~~ the service control point is a
3 STOR message; and

wherein the peripheral device is coupled to said telephone switch by an additional telephone switch.

Claim 24 (currently amended): A fax forwarding method, the method comprising:
for each of a plurality of fax forwarding service subscribers, creating a subscriber record including:

at least one telephone number corresponding to a telephone line on which the forwarding service subscriber may receive a fax call; fax forwarding by E-mail status information indicating whether faxes are to be forwarded by E-mail; fax forwarding by telephone status information indicating if faxes are to be forwarded by telephone; and an E-mail address to be used to forward a fax received by answering a call directed to said at least one telephone number; monitoring a plurality of said telephone lines on which fax forwarding fibers may receive fax calls; and in response to receiving a call on one of said monitored lines: answering said call; determining if said answered received call is a fax call or a non-fax call; if the received call is determined to be a fax call and the fax forwarding by E-mail status information indicates faxes are to be forwarded by E-mail for the monitored line on which the call was received, determining, by accessing from the subscriber record corresponding to the telephone line on which the fax call is received, an E-mail address to be used for forwarding a fax received on said telephone line; and forwarding by E-mail, using the determined E-mail address, a fax received on said telephone line; and

if the call is determined to be a fax call and the fax forwarding by telephone status information indicates faxes are to be forwarded by telephone for the monitored line on which the call was received, forwarding said fax call to a telephone number indicated by the subscriber record corresponding to the telephone line on which the call was received.

Claim 25 (original): The method of claim 24, wherein monitoring a plurality of said telephone lines on which fax forwarding service subscribers may receive fax calls includes:

setting an AIN terminating attempt trigger on each of said plurality of telephone lines.

Claim 26 (original): The method of claim 24, further comprising, in response to receiving a fax call on one of said monitored lines, performing the additional steps of:

determining, by accessing the subscriber record corresponding to the telephone line on which the fax call is received, a fax forwarding telephone number to be used for forwarding a fax received on said telephone line; and

and placing a call using the determined fax forwarding telephone number;

bridging the placed call and the received fax call thereby forwarding the fax call by telephone.

Claim 27 (new) The method claim 1, further comprising:

if the first telephone call is determined to be a fax telephone call, prior to performing, in parallel, i) a fax delivery by E-mail operation and ii) a fax delivery by telephone operation:

determining if forwarding information corresponding to said first telephone number includes a fax forwarding by telephone status indicator indicating

7 that fax forwarding by telephone is to be performed and if said forwarding
8 information also includes a fax forwarding by E-mail status indicator indicating that
9 fax forwarding by E-mail is to be performed, said step of performing, in parallel, i) a
10 fax delivery by E-mail operation and ii) a fax delivery by telephone operation being
11 performed only when both said fax forwarding by telephone and fax forwarding by E-
12 mail indicators indicate that fax forwarding is to be performed.